

December 2015

Proposal:
Lions Clubs of North Dakota

Submitted by:
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PROJECT:

ND Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program:

The program is designed to improve access to hearing aid technology to all residents in need within the state of North Dakota. The need is great. The financial burden of acquiring hearing aids is a major barrier for many people in North Dakota; I see it each and every day that I work with patients. By collecting hearing aids that are no longer in use, we can work together to help our fellow community members in need of hearing aid technology.

I am formally requesting assistance in the collection of old and no-longer-used hearing aids in your communities. Lions Hearing Aid Recycling enables Lions to provide affordable hearing aids for hard-of-hearing individuals who have limited financial resources.

Please see the enclosed for more information on the program and do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Collection boxes are available for interested clubs and will be sent if requested. The boxes are identical to eyeglasses donation boxes and can be set up together. Your club will be responsible to sending the donated/recycled hearing aids to the Magic City Lions as often as necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tricia M. Nechodom, Au.D.

"Deafness still remains isolating – even more so than blindness. When you're blind, you lose touch with things, but when you're deaf, you lose touch with people." Helen Keller

ND Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program

Hearing Aid Collection, Salvage Credit and New Technology

SUMMARY and RATIONALE

Through discussions with the audiologists and hearing instrument dispensers across North Dakota, it has been determined that a hearing aid donation and recycling program in the state of North Dakota would be considered instrumental for improving access to hearing instrument technology. The ND Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program is designed to provide low-cost technology to people in need who have chosen to pursue amplification and by no means implies nor employs communication bias. The program will include:

- Dedicated hearing aid recycling boxes across the state to be checked and collected regularly by participating Lions clubs
- A central collection site managed by the Magic City Lions located in Minot, ND
 - ND Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program Coordinator:
 - Tricia Nechodom, Audiologist
- All donated hearing aids will be sent directly to Starkey Hearing Technologies in Eden Prairie, MN for salvage credit
 - Salvage credit ranges from \$2-180 per donated aid depending on condition, technology and style
- The salvage credit will be pooled into an account at Starkey and will be available for the purchase of new, low-cost hearing aids from their company
- Any patient in need of hearing technology located in the state of North Dakota will be eligible for hearing aid assistance by contacting their local Lions club
- ND Lions clubs will send funding requests to the program for review
 - Clubs are encouraged to work with local audiologists and hearing instrument dispensers to determine whether the recipient will be responsible for fitting or professional fees associated with the hearing aid fittings
 - A list of all licensed audiologists and hearing instrument dispensers in the state of North Dakota will be available to clubs for further contact
 - New hearing aids will be sent to either:
 - The requesting Lions club to provide to the patient
 - Directly to the audiologist or hearing instrument dispenser

If the recipient has not yet established care with an audiologist or hearing instrument dispenser, appropriate contact will be made prior to considering a request. State law reads that patients require a hearing evaluation to be completed within 6 months of hearing aid fitting and all new hearing aids will require an initial fitting to be completed as hearing aids come set to manufacturer defaults.

The program will emphasize:

- Providing appropriate amplification and other devices otherwise potentially unavailable
- Rapid delivery of equipment to the requesting Lions club, audiologist or dispenser
- Careful monitoring and evaluation with all agencies involved to determine areas of improvement and accessibility

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